

HISTORY OF WESTERN MARYLAND.

BEING A HISTORY OF

FREDERICK, MONTGOMERY, CARROLL, WASHINGTON, ALLEGANY, AND GARRETT

COUNTIES

FROM THE EARLIEST PERIOD TO THE PRESENT DAY;

INCLUDING

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

OF THEIR

REPRESENTATIVE MEN.

BY

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IN TWO VOLUMES, ILLUSTRATED.

VOL. II.

PHILADELPHIA:
LOUIS H. EVERTS.
1882.

she grew up to womanhood. She was the oldest of her family. The home plantation being large enough for two places was divided between her brothers, Cornelius and Israel. The latter with his family having died, the former afterwards sold the places and went West. Rebecca Shriver died Nov. 24, 1812, aged seventy years, ten months, and three days.

Mordecai Gist, so distinguished in the Revolutionary struggle, was a son of Capt. Thomas Gist and Susan Cockey, and was born in Baltimore Town, Feb.



GEN. MORDECAI GIST.

22, 1742. He was educated at St. Paul's Parish School, Baltimore City, and at the breaking out of the Revolution was a merchant doing business on Gay Street. The Gists were early emigrants to Maryland, and took an active part in the affairs of the province. Christopher Gist was of English descent, and died in Baltimore County in 1691. His wife was Edith Cromwell, who died in 1694. They had one child, Richard, who was surveyor of the Western Shore, and was one of the commissioners in 1729 for laying off Baltimore Town, and was presiding magistrate in 1736. In 1705 he married Zipporah Murray. Christopher Gist, one of his sons, because of his knowledge of the country on the Ohio and his skill in dealing with the Indians, was chosen to accompany Washington on his mission in 1753, and it was from his journal that all subsequent historians derive their account of that expedition. Christopher Gist, the son of Richard, married Sarah Howard, the second daughter of Joshua and Joanna O'Carroll Howard, and had four children,—Nancy, who died unmarried, and Thomas, Nathaniel, and Richard. Christopher, with his sons Nathaniel and Richard, was with Braddock on the fatal field of Monongahela, and for his services received a grant of twelve thousand acres of land from the King of England. It is said that Thomas Gist was taken prisoner at Braddock's defeat, and lived sixteen years with the Indians in Canada. Richard married and settled in South Carolina, and was killed at the battle of King's Mountain. He has descendants yet living in that State. Thomas, after his release from captivity, lived with his father on the grants in Kentucky, and became a man of note, presiding in the courts till his death, about 1786. Gen. Nathaniel Gist married Judith Carey Bell, of Buckingham County, Va., a grandniece of Archibald

Carey, the mover of the Bill of Rights in the Virginia House of Burgesses. Nathaniel was a colonel in the Virginia Line during the Revolutionary war, and died early in the present century at an old age. He left two sons,—Henry Carey and Thomas Cecil Gist. His eldest daughter, Sarah Howard, married the Hon. Jesse Bledsoe, a United States senator from Kentucky, and a distinguished jurist, whose grandson, B. Gratz Brown, was the Democratic candidate for Vice-President in 1872. The second daughter of Gen. Nathaniel Gist, Anne (Nancy), married Col. Nathaniel Hart, a brother of Mrs. Henry Clay. The third daughter married Dr. Boswell, of Lexington, Ky. The fourth daughter, Eliza Violetta Howard Gist, married Hon. Francis P. Blair, and they were the parents of Hon. Montgomery Blair, ex-Postmaster-General, and Gen. Francis P. Blair, Jr. The fifth daughter married Benjamin Gratz, of Lexington, Ky. Mordecai Gist was a member of the Baltimore Town non-importation committee in 1774, and in December of the same year was captain of the first company raised in Maryland. He was three times married. His first wife was a Miss Carman, of Baltimore County, who died shortly after marriage. His second was Miss Sterrett, of Baltimore, who died in giving birth to a son. His third was Mrs. Cattell, of South Carolina. She also bore him a son. One of the boys was named "Independent," the other "States." Gen. Mordecai Gist died at Charleston, S. C., Aug. 2, 1792.

On Jan. 1, 1776, the Maryland Convention appointed Mordecai Gist second major of Col. Smallwood's First Maryland Battalion. In the battle on Long Island, in August, 1776, the Maryland regiment, not numbering more than four hundred and fifty, was commanded by Maj. Gist, as Col. Smallwood and Lieut.-Col. Ware were in New York attending the court-martial of Lieut.-Col. Zedwitz. On Washington's retreat through New Jersey, Maj. Gist's Marylanders were reduced to one hundred and ninety effective men, who with Lord Stirling's and Gen. Adam Stephen's brigades covered the retreat. Maj. Gist's (formerly Smallwood's) regiment, on Dec. 1, 1776, re-enlisted for three years. In February, 1777, Gen. Smallwood sent Col. Mordecai Gist with a detachment against the Somerset and Worcester County Tories and insurgents, who were put to flight, many captured, and the others forced into obedience by his stern measures, and the disaffection quieted by over-awing and quelling the insurgents. The battle of Brandywine was fought Sept. 11, 1777, when Col. Gist was at home attending his sick wife, but on learning of its disastrous termination, by a special express he instantly rejoined the army with reinforce-

ments collected at home. In May, 1779, when Maryland was threatened with British invasion, on the application of its Governor, Col. Gist was ordered to that State, and assumed command of its defenses. Gen. DeKalb, who died on the third day after he was wounded, near Camden, S. C. (Aug. 16, 1780), in his last moments dictated letters to Gens. Gist and Smallwood expressive of his affection for them and their men, who had so nobly stood by him in that deadly battle. In this battle DeKalb led a bayonet charge with Col. Gist's Second Maryland Brigade, drove the division under Rawdon, took fifty prisoners, but fell exhausted after receiving eleven wounds. Congress voted thanks to Gens. Gist and Smallwood and their men. In June, 1781, Gen. Gist joined Lafayette's army on the march to Yorktown with the Maryland levies. On Nov. 21, 1783, at a meeting of the officers of the Maryland Line to form a State Society of the Cincinnati, Gen. Otho H. Williams presided, and Lieut.-Col. Eccleston was secretary. Maj.-Gen. Wm. Smallwood was made permanent president; Brig.-Gen. Mordecai Gist, vice-president; Col. Nathaniel Ramsey, treasurer; and Brig.-Gen. Otho H. Williams, secretary.

Joshua Gist, one of the early settlers in Carroll County, was a brother of Gen. Mordecai Gist, and was born in Baltimore Town, Oct. 16, 1743. His parents were Capt. Thomas and Susan (Cockey) Gist. His grandfather was Richard Gist, son of Christopher, the emigrant. During the administration of John Adams, near the close of the last century (1794), an excise duty was laid on stills. This created what was then known as the "Whisky Insurrection" by those opposed to the tax. The rebellion became so formidable, particularly in Western Pennsylvania, that Washington, at the request of President Adams, took the field in person as commander of the forces raised to suppress it. The excitement extended to what is now Carroll County, and the "Whisky Boys" marched in a band into Westminster and set up a liberty-pole. The people of the town became alarmed and sent out for Col. Joshua Gist, who then commanded a regiment of the militia. The colonel, who was known to be a brave man, mounted his horse, rode into town, drew his sword, ordered the pole to be cut down, and placing his foot on it, it was cut to pieces, when the Boys left. He died Nov. 17, 1839, aged ninety-one years, one month, and one day.

The Gist family graveyard in Carroll County contains the graves of the following members of the family:

Col. Joshua Gist, died Nov. 17, 1839, aged 91 years, 1 month, and 1 day.

Harriet Dorsey, wife of Nicholas Dorsey, and daughter of Col. Joshua Gist, died June 25, 1804, aged 74 years and 18 days.

Sarah (Harvey) Gist, wife of Col. Joshua Gist, died June 6, 1827, aged 72 years, 7 months, and 4 days.

Sarah (Gist), wife of Lewis A. Beatty, died March 30th, in her 27th year.

Rachel, wife of Independent Gist, died May 2, 1830, aged 50 years, 1 month, and 15 days.

Independent, son of Gen. Mordecai Gist, died Sept. 16, 1821.

Richard Gist, died Aug. 6, 1844, aged 23 years.

Mary G., wife of States Ligan Gist, and daughter of States Gist, of Charleston, S. C., died Feb. 8, 1847, aged 30 years.

Bradford Porcher Gist, born May 28, 1842, died Jan 2, 1865. He was a soldier of the Union, and died from disease contracted while a prisoner.

Richard Milton, infant son of Mordecai and Elizabeth (Orndorff) Gist, died Sept. 13, 1871.

Maggie, only child of George W. and Mary Owings, died Sept. 21, 1863, aged 3 years, 1 month, and 8 days.

Elizabeth (Gist), wife of Joseph Woods, born June 8, 1844, died Dec. 3, 1873; and her daughter, Mary, died Oct. 15, 1877, aged 3 years, 4 months, and 26 days.

Rachel, infant daughter of Mordecai and Elizabeth (Orndorff) Gist, died 1873.

The Gists were of English descent, and took an active part in the affairs of the province. Christopher Gist married Edith Cromwell, sister of Richard Cromwell, a son or brother of Oliver Cromwell. Christopher Gist died in Baltimore County in 1691, and his wife, Edith, in 1694. Their only child, Richard Gist, married Zipporah Murray, by whom he had three sons—Christopher, Nathaniel, and Thomas—and four daughters,—Edith, Ruth, Sarah, and Jemima. Christopher married Sarah Howard, Edith was married to Abraham Vaughan, Ruth to William Lewis, Sarah to John Kennedy, and Jemima to Mr. Seabrook. Thomas Gist married, July 2, 1735, Miss Susannah Cockey, daughter of John and Elizabeth Cockey, by whom the following children were born:

- 1, Elizabeth, born Dec. 24, 1736; 2, John, Nov. 22, 1738; 3, Thomas, March 30, 1741; 4, Gen. Mordecai Gist, Feb. 22, 1742; 5, Richard, Nov. 1, 1745; 6, Joshua, Oct. 16, 1746; 7, Rachel, Sept. 17, 1750; and, 8, David, April 29, 1753.

Thomas Gist died May 24, 1787, aged seventy-four years and nine months, and his children died as follows: Elizabeth, March 6, 1826; John, July 16, 1800; Thomas, Nov. 22, 1813; Gen. Mordecai Gist, Sept. 12, 1792; Richard, Nov. 1746 (an infant); Rachel, Sept. 8, 1825; Joshua, Nov. 17, 1839; and David, Aug. 3, 1820. Of these, as we have stated, Gen. Mordecai Gist first married a Mrs. Carman, of Baltimore County, who died shortly after marriage; his second wife was Miss Sterrett, of Baltimore, who died Jan. 8, 1779, in giving birth to a son (Independent); and his third wife was Mrs. Cattell, of South Carolina, who bore him a son named States. These were his only children.